

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-19 (cancelled).

20. (New) A computing device operable by a user to interact with network sites over a network interface, the device comprising:

- a processor;

- a communication port coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate with a plurality of network sites over said network interface; and

- a storage device coupled to said processor and storing user interface software adapted to display information from said plurality of network sites, characteristic information associated with each of a plurality of network sites, preference information including a ranking of preferred ones of said plurality of network sites as measured by said characteristic information for automatically configuring user preferences of said user interface software, and instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

 - detect network activity of said user when said user operates said user interface software to interact with said plurality of network sites;

 - update said characteristic information based on said detected network activity, said characteristic information including information identifying the duration and frequency of visits to each of said plurality of network sites;

 - update said preference information based on said updated characteristic information to automatically reconfigure user preferences of said user interface; and

 - repeatedly detect and update as said user operates said computing device such that said user preferences of said user interface automatically reflect usage patterns of said user.

21. (New) The computing device of claim 20, wherein said characteristic information further includes information identifying at least one of:

(i) a network site with the greatest frequency of visits by said computing device;
(ii) a network site having the greatest time spent by said computing device;
(iii) a network site having the greatest number of downloads by said computing device;
(iv) a network site for which said computing device selected the largest window size; and
(v) a network site having the greatest number of keystroke interaction by said computing device.

22. (New) The computing device of claim 20, wherein said preference information further stores at least one alternative network site for at least one of said ranked network sites.

23. (New) The computing device of claim 20, wherein said network activity is detected by monitoring at least one of: (i) a time spent at a network site; (ii) a frequency of communications with a network site; (iii) a number of downloads from a network site; (iv) a window size while in communication with a network site; (v) a number of keystrokes while in communication with a network site.

24. (New) A method for operating a computing device to allow a user to interact with network sites over a network interface, the method comprising:

initiating operation of user interface software on said computing device;
automatically configuring said user interface software using a set of stored preference information, said preference information including a ranking of preferred ones of said plurality of network sites, said ranking previously established based on characteristic information automatically measured based on previous network activity of said user;
operating said user interface software to interact with a plurality of network sites;
updating said characteristic information based on said detected network activity, said characteristic information including information identifying the duration and frequency of visits to each of said plurality of network sites; and
updating said preference information based on said updated characteristic information to automatically reconfigure user preferences of said user interface.